

Fiscal Highlights

Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee Meets - Russell T. Frandsen

The Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee held a July 9, 2013 meeting in Tremonton, Utah, and discussed the following:

- **Open public input** - The subcommittee heard from a parent and an advocate regarding some of the state-funded programs for mental health.
- Received **responses to unanswered subcommittee questions** during the 2013 General Session - from the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) - [USOR 2013 Chairs Response Letter](#), [USOR Backup Material for Questions, Performance, Overlap](#), including an explanation as to how Disability Determination Services benefit Utah citizens.
- Received **proposed performance measures for new state funding appropriated during the 2013 General Session** in compliance with intent language (H.B. 3, Items 69, 79, 84, and 89 & S.B. 2, Items 72, 83, 88, and 94). These proposed measures can be found as follows: 1) Department of Health - [DOH Performance Measure Forms 06-18-2013](#), 2) the Department of Workforce Services - [DWS Performance Measures for New Funding](#), 3) the Department of Human Services - [DHS Performance Measures for new funding](#), and 4) the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation - [USOR Backup Material for Questions, Performance, Overlap](#).
- **Bear River Health Tremonton Facility Handout** - The subcommittee heard about the four entities that share the building where the meeting was held: Bear River Health Department, Bear River Mental Health Services, Utah Department of Health, and a Community Health Center.
- Received a report regarding **federal sequestration** ([Sequester Impact Report](#)) compiled from the four social services agencies. This report shows the \$6 million known effect of federal sequestration on various grants along with a brief description of the services provided with these grants.
- Received a report regarding fees charged ([Fee Summary](#)) compiled from the departments of Health, Human Services, and Workforce Services. The report shows fee categories, average annual revenue, average annual direct costs, average annual indirect costs, profit and or loss, along with explanations. There are three programs running a profit:
 - environmental lab certification;
 - hospital & ambulatory surgical center licensing;
 - background checks for health care workers.
- Received a verbal report on the **General Assistance Program** and discussed, based upon a staff-prepared issue brief ([General Assistance - Issue Brief](#).) This issue brief provides background for the Utah General Assistance program, comparison to other state General Relief programs, and possible actions the Legislature might take regarding the program.

-
- - a chart showing the growth in Medicaid funding from 1998 through 2014 estimated by General Fund (with federal stimulus adjustments for certain years). The chart also shows Medicaid General Fund as a percentage of all General Fund growing from 13% in 1998 to an estimated 23% in 2014.
 - - "This issue brief provides a snapshot of how many Medicaid providers (physicians, dentists, and pharmacies) participated in the Medicaid fee-for-service program from FY 2008 through FY 2012 and how many clients they served. In general the data indicates that participation for physicians in the fee-for-service Medicaid program is decreasing, while dentist participation is increasing, and pharmacy participation has remained relatively constant. The fee-for-service program for physician services served about 60% of all Medicaid clients from FY 2008 through FY 2012. The fee-for-service program for dental and pharmacy services serves 100% of Medicaid clients. Participation in the Medicaid program by providers is optional and qualifying providers can start or stop serving clients at will."
 - **Medicaid Waivers Summary** - a chart identifying all waiver types, waiver names, bureau where the waiver is managed, bureau director over each waiver, date originally implemented, date of most recent re-authorization, next date for renewal, and a summary description of each Medicaid waiver.
 - **June 2013 MMIS Letter** - The Department of Health reported on the progress of replacing the Medicaid Management Information System. The department also explained why the state cost has increased by \$3.5 million. The increased cost is due to a lower-than-anticipated federal participation rate, but not a change in the total cost estimate.

Stephen Jardine also contributed to this article.